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Fifty-eighth year

Letter dated 3 June 2003 from the Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith the text of the Saint Petersburg appeal adopted on 1 June 2003 by the heads of State and Government participating in the international events marking the 300th anniversary of Saint Petersburg (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the text of this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council and of the General Assembly under agenda item 44.

(*Signed*) Sergey **Lavrov**

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Annex to the letter dated 3 June 2003 from the Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Text of the Saint Petersburg appeal adopted by the heads of State and Government participating in the international events marking the 300th anniversary of Saint Petersburg, Saint Petersburg, 1 June 2003

We, State leaders meeting in Saint Petersburg on the 300th anniversary of a city which has made a unique contribution to world culture and history, call upon all countries, international organizations and social forces of our planet to unite their efforts to preserve the cultural heritage of civilization and confirm the ideals of humanism, mutual understanding and cooperation among peoples.

All peoples of good will, and all political and social movements must demonstrate solidarity in the face of the global challenges encountered by mankind at the beginning of the third millennium. These are international terrorism, organized crime and drug trafficking, acute social problems, environmental pollution and epidemics.

We are deeply convinced that firm commitment to the universally recognized norms of international law and eternal moral and ethical values will be a reliable foundation for our joint actions to achieve the triumph of universal peace and progress and the building of a dignified future for our descendants.